

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 19, 2007. In that Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, and 13 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter that the applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, and 13 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Duggan (US Publication no. 2003/0169781) in view of Baxter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,107,356). The applicants have amended claims 1-3, 5, 9, 10, 12, and 13. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are now pending in the application.

The applicants have amended claims to overcome the rejection of claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, and 13 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter that the applicants regard as the invention because of lack of antecedent basis for the respective limitations identified in the Office Action. These amendments are believed to overcome the rejection of claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, and 13.

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Duggan (US Publication no. 2003/0169781) in view of Baxter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,107,356).

Claim 1 recites the limitations “replacing the port identifier with a session identifier in the command message prior to the transmitting the command message to the extension network element,” “determining a port to transmit the response based on the session identifier included in the response,” and “forwarding a modified response to a

second network element.” As acknowledged by the Examiner Duggan fails to disclose “replacing the port identifier with a session identifier in the command message prior to the transmitting the command message to the extension network element,” and “forwarding a modified response to a second network element.” However, on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner states that Duggan teaches determining a port to transmit the response based on the session identifier included in the response. The Examiner is incorrect. Duggan clearly states in paragraph 32 that “a response message is returned having no <TID> field and without selective modification.” In addition, there is no discussion in Duggan about a response being returned based on any information in any field of the response. Accordingly, Duggan also does not teach the limitation of “determining a port to transmit the response based on the session identifier included in the response,”

Baxter is cited to cure the deficiencies of Duggan. However, Baxter also fails to teach or suggest, at least, the limitation of “determining a port to transmit the response based on the session identifier included in the response,” On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner states that the limitations that Duggan fails to teach is disclosed by Baxter in columns 41-61. The Applicants cannot find these columns in Baxter. As understood, Baxter creates a modified input command including the TID of a router (i.e., session ID) in a field that originally contained a logical TID (i.e., element identifier). A response to the modified input command is sent and includes the TID of the router (i.e., session ID), which is then changed back to the logical TID. While a logical TID is associated with respective ports of a router, there is no discussion of determining a port to transmit the response based on the TID of the router or logical TID. See discussion for Fig. 5. In

addition, the only discussion of associating an ID with a port is in the discussion of sending an autonomous message from a network element instead sending a message to the network element. See discussion for Fig. 6. Accordingly, the combination of Duggan and Baxter fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the invention of claim 1. Claims 5 and 10 recite similar limitations and thus are not taught or suggested for at least the same reasons discussed with respect to claim 1. The remaining claims depend from claims 1, 5 and 10 respectively and thus are not taught for at least the same reasons discussed with respect to claims 1, 5, and 10. In addition, claim 2 recites receiving a the TL1 message including the extension network element identifier in the field of the TL1 message at a network element specified in a TID field of the TL1 message, wherein the field is a general field in the TL1 message, replacing the extension network element identifier with the session identifier, and transmitting the modified TL1 message to an extension network element. Duggan and Baxter, alone and in combination, fail to disclose the combination of elements. Accordingly, the combination of Duggan and Baxter fails to teach or suggest the invention of claim 2.

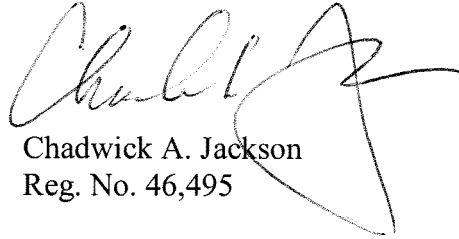
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 50-4545 (5302-004-US01).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should

the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chadwick A. Jackson', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Date: June 19, 2008

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